
USDA/NASS

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is the statistical and data collection arm of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

- **Mission:** To provide timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.
- **Function:** NASS serves as the primary statistical Agency within USDA for providing information on agricultural production, economics, land, water, energy and environmental management, and farm demographics, based on surveys and the Census of Agriculture. The Agency maintains a confidential list of all U.S. farms and ranches. Individual grower information is strictly confidential and protected by law.
- **Partners and Stakeholders:** Cooperative arrangements with State Departments of Agriculture and/or land-grant universities serve to meet the data needs at both the State and Federal level. This eliminates duplication of effort, minimizes respondent burden, maintains data consistency, and reduces cost. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and NASS have signed an agreement to maximize the coordination, alignment, and use of NASS statistical services. This partnership encourages leveraging and consolidating existing funds.



Statistical Services Available

NASS provides a broad range of statistical services to State Departments of Agriculture, land-grant universities, commodity industry sectors, and non-profit organizations. Service is available through a network of 46 Field Offices, including Puerto Rico. Services support the interest and well-being of the agricultural sector. NASS does not conduct proprietary surveys.

Services and assistance:

- Provide administrative direction and support
- Evaluate and clarify project and study goals
- Define agricultural population and sample of interest by commodity, size, type, location
- Establish statistically reliable and efficient sampling methods
- Evaluate and define various survey methods and modes of data collection: mail, telephone, personal interview, internet
- Establish response rate measures and goals
- Propose timing and administration processes including printing, mailing, handling, etc.
- Review and/or design questionnaire format and questions
- Determine pre-test needs
- Establish data review, processing, analysis, and summary requirements
- Determine publication and release options
- Work within budget and cost constraints
- Preserve list and respondent confidentiality

Other services:

- Data lab available for research projects
- Study area options include national, regional, state, district, county, etc.
- ArcGIS spatial analysis and mapping
- Cropland Data Layer analysis and support

How to Obtain Statistical Services

Project Planning:

- Call or email the local NASS field office early in the planning process
 - For small relatively simple studies, present plans at least 6-9 weeks before the data collection process begins
 - For larger or more complex studies, present plans 3-6 months in advance
- **Grant Proposals:**
 - Meet with NASS survey administrator(s) to discuss plans and goals
 - Provide study proposal
 - Background
 - Purpose
 - Intended audience
 - Timeline
 - Review publication content
 - NASS will provide cost estimate and letter of support as needed for grant

NASS Contacts:
Robert Battaglia , Director
Greg Bussler, Deputy Director
USDA, NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
608-224-4848
bob_battaglia@nass.usda.gov
greg_bussler@nass.usda.gov

Fees for Service

USDA/NASS provides statistical consulting services on a fee-for-service basis. Services are provided to universities, governments, and commodity industry sectors where the purpose supports and benefits the agricultural community. The initial consulting meeting is provided at no cost.

Service Steps:

- During initial meeting, establish survey framework and foundation
- Request services and USDA/NASS cost estimates
- Obtain approval and funding support
- Initiate administrative processes
- Complete requested services
- Invoice client

Service Benefits:

- DATCP-USDA/NASS partnership provides infrastructure for on-going, timely, consulting services
- Provides known and creditable third party statistical services
- Leverages existing funds and consolidates costs across partners and stakeholders
- Increases survey efficiency and reduces costs with expenses limited to cost-recovery
- Provides accessibility to current agricultural list sources
- Offers specialized knowledge and experience in agricultural surveys
- Utilizes DATCP and USDA/NASS liaison support and services

Statistical Consultations Provided

Recent Projects:

- Wisconsin Groundwater Quality Survey, DATCP
- Dairy Producer Survey, DATCP
- Custom Rates Survey, UW
- Specialty Cheese Production, DATCP
- Wisconsin Green Industry Survey, Wisconsin Landscape Federation
- Corn Producers Survey, UW
- Deer Herd Management Survey, DNR
- Food Safety Customer Service Survey, DATCP
- Consumer Protection Customer Service Survey, DATCP
- Wisconsin Pesticide Use Survey, DATCP
- U of M Soybean Aphid Survey, U of M
- Wisconsin Land Sales, DATCP
- Dairy Plant Investment Survey, DATCP
- Wisconsin Dairy Goat Industry Overview, DATCP
- Goat Milk Processor Survey, DATCP
- Dairy Farms Systems Survey, UW

Statistical Consulting Services

National Agricultural Statistics Service

USDA/NASS Wisconsin Field Office



<http://www.nass.usda.gov>

USDA/NASS, Wisconsin Field Office
PO Box 8934
Madison, WI 53708-8934
608-224-4848
